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Measurement of angular correlations in Drell–Yan lepton pairs to probe $Z/\gamma^*$ boson transverse momentum at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV with the ATLAS detector

The ATLAS Collaboration

Abstract

A measurement of angular correlations in Drell–Yan lepton pairs via the $\phi_\eta^*$ observable is presented. This variable probes the same physics as the $Z/\gamma^*$ boson transverse momentum with a better experimental resolution. The $Z/\gamma^* \to e^+e^-$ and $Z/\gamma^* \to \mu^+\mu^-$ decays produced in proton–proton collisions at a centre-of-mass energy of $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV are used. The data were collected with the ATLAS detector at the LHC and correspond to an integrated luminosity of 4.6 $fb^{-1}$. Normalised differential cross sections as a function of $\phi_\eta^*$ are measured separately for electron and muon decay channels. These channels are then combined for improved accuracy. The cross section is also measured double differentially as a function of $\phi_\eta^*$ for three independent bins of the $Z$ boson rapidity. The results are compared to QCD calculations and to predictions from different Monte Carlo event generators. The data are reasonably well described, in all measured $Z$ boson rapidity regions, by resummed QCD predictions combined with fixed-order perturbative QCD calculations or by some Monte Carlo event generators. The measurement precision is typically better by one order of magnitude than present theoretical uncertainties.

Keywords:
$Z$ Boson, Differential Cross Section, Perturbative QCD, Event Generators, Monte Carlo Models

1. Introduction

In hadron collisions at TeV energies the vector bosons $W$ and $Z/\gamma^*$ are copiously produced with non-zero momentum transverse to the beam direction ($p_T$) because of radiation of quarks and gluons from the initial-state partons. In this context the signatures $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow e^+e^-$ and $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ provide an ideal testing ground for QCD due to the absence of colour flow between the initial and final state [1–3]. The study of the low $p_T^Z$ spectrum ($p_T^Z < m_Z$), which dominates the cross section, has important implications on the understanding of Higgs boson production since the transverse-momentum resummation formalism required to describe the $Z/\gamma^*$ boson cross section is valid also for the Higgs boson [4–7]. A precise understanding of the $p_T^Z$ spectrum is also necessary to further improve the modelling of $W$ boson production in QCD calculations and Monte Carlo (MC) event generators, since the measurement of the $W$ mass is directly affected by uncertainties in the $p_T^Z$ shape [8, 9].

The transverse momentum spectra of $W$ and $Z/\gamma^*$ bosons produced via the Drell–Yan mechanism have been extensively studied by the Tevatron collaborations [10–14] and, recently, also by the LHC experiments [15–17]. However, the precision of direct measurements of the $Z/\gamma^*$ spectrum at low $p_T^Z$ at the LHC and the Tevatron is limited by the experimental resolution and systematic uncertainties rather than by the size of the available data samples. This limitation affects the choice of bin widths and the ultimate precision of the $p_T^Z$ spectrum. In recent years, additional observables with better experimental resolution and smaller sensitivity to experimental systematic uncertainties have been investigated [18–21]. The optimal experimental observable to probe the low-$p_T^Z$ domain of $Z/\gamma^*$ production was found to be $\phi_\eta^*$ which is defined [20] as:

$$\phi_\eta^* \equiv \tan(\phi_{\text{acop}}/2) \cdot \sin(\theta_\eta^*)$$ (1)

where $\phi_{\text{acop}} \equiv \pi - \Delta\phi$, $\Delta\phi$ being the azimuthal opening angle between the two leptons, and the angle $\theta_\eta^*$ is a measure of the scattering angle of the leptons with respect to the proton beam direction in the rest frame of the dilepton system. The angle $\theta_\eta^*$ is defined [20] by $\cos(\theta_\eta^*) \equiv \tanh((\eta^- - \eta^+)/2)$ where $\eta^-$ and $\eta^+$ are the pseudorapidities\(^3\) of the negatively and positively charged lepton, respectively. Therefore, $\phi_\eta^*$ depends exclusively on the directions of the two lepton tracks, which are better measured than their momenta. The $\phi_\eta^*$ variable is positive by definition. It is correlated to the quantity $p_T^Z/m_{\ell\ell}$, where $m_{\ell\ell}$ is the invariant mass of the lepton pair, and therefore probes the same physics as the transverse momentum $p_T^Z$ [22]. Values of $\phi_\eta^*$ ranging from 0 to 1 probe

\(^3\)ATLAS uses a right-handed coordinate system with its origin at the nominal pp interaction point (IP) in the centre of the detector and the $z$-axis along the beam pipe. The $x$-axis points from the IP to the centre of the LHC ring, and the $y$-axis points upward. Cylindrical coordinates $(\rho, \phi)$ are used in the transverse plane, $\phi$ being the azimuthal angle around the beam pipe. The pseudorapidity is defined in terms of the polar angle $\theta$ as $\eta = -\ln \tan(\theta/2)$ and the rapidity is defined as $y = \ln[(E + p_z)/(E - p_z)]/2$. 

the $p_T^\ell$ distribution mainly up to $\sim 100$ GeV. The $\phi^*_\eta$ distribution of $Z/\gamma^*$ bosons has been measured in three bins of the $Z$ boson rapidity ($y_Z$) by the DØ Collaboration using 7.3 fb$^{-1}$ of $p\bar{p}$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 1.96$ TeV [23].

This Letter presents a measurement of the normalised $\phi^*_\eta$ distribution in bins of the $Z$ boson rapidity $y_Z$ using 4.6 fb$^{-1}$ of $pp$ interactions collected at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV in 2011 by the ATLAS detector. The normalised differential cross section is measured in both the electron and muon channels in the fiducial lepton acceptance defined by the lepton ($\ell = e, \mu$) transverse momentum $p_T^\ell > 20$ GeV, the lepton pseudorapidity $|\eta^\ell| < 2.4$ and the invariant mass of the lepton pair $66 \text{ GeV} < m_{\ell\ell} < 116 \text{ GeV}$. Correction factors allowing the extrapolation of the cross section from the fiducial lepton acceptance to the full lepton acceptance, restricted to $66 \text{ GeV} < m_{\ell\ell} < 116 \text{ GeV}$, are also presented. The reconstructed $\phi^*_\eta$ distribution, after background subtraction, is corrected for all detector effects. The measurements are reported with respect to three distinct reference points at particle level regarding QED final-state radiation (FSR) corrections. The true dilepton mass $m_{\ell\ell}$ and $\phi^*_\eta$ are defined by the final-state leptons after QED FSR ("bare" leptons), or by recombining them with radiated photons within a cone of $\Delta R = \sqrt{(\Delta\eta)^2 + (\Delta\phi)^2} = 0.1$ ("dressed" leptons), or by the final-state leptons before QED FSR ("Born leptons"). The bare definition does not require any QED FSR correction for muons, whilst the dressed definition is the closest to the experimental measurement for electrons. The Born definition corresponds to the full correction for QED FSR effects, so that it can be used for the combination of the electron and muon channels. The combination of the electron and muon channels is compared to QCD predictions obtained by matching resummed and fixed order QCD calculations, as well as to the predictions of MC event generators implementing a parton shower (PS) algorithm.

2. QCD predictions

Non-zero $p_T^Z$ is mainly generated through the emission of partons in the initial state. In the high $p_T^Z$ region ($p_T^Z > m_Z$) the spectrum is determined primarily by hard parton emission. Perturbative QCD calculations, based on the truncation of the perturbative series at a fixed order in $\alpha_s$, are theoretically justified and provide reliable predictions. The inclusive cross-section prediction is finite but the differential cross section diverges as $p_T^Z$ approaches zero. In this limit ($p_T^Z \ll m_Z$) the convergence of the fixed-order expansion is spoiled by the presence of powers of large logarithmic terms which have to be resummed to restore the convergence.

Differential cross sections calculated to ${\cal O}(\alpha_s^2)$ are available for $Z/\gamma^*$ production through the FewZ [24, 25] and DynNLO [26, 27] programs. The ResBos [28–30] generator resums the leading contributions up to next-to-next-to-leading logarithms (NNLL) and matches the result to fixed-order calculations at ${\cal O}(\alpha_s)$. This is corrected to ${\cal O}(\alpha_s^2)$ using a $k$-factor depending on $p_T^Z$ and $y_Z$ [31]. In addition, the ResBos generator includes a non-perturbative form factor that needs to be determined from data [32]. A slightly different approach has been proposed recently to describe the Tevatron Run II data by matching NNLL accuracy to MCFM calculations [33], with no apparent need for non-perturbative contributions [22, 34].

Similarly to resummed calculations, PS algorithms such as those used in Pythia [35] and Herwig [36] provide an all-order approximation of parton radiation in the soft and collinear region through the iterative splitting and radiation of partons. The Powheg [37–40] and MC@NLO [41] event generators combine next-to-leading order (NLO) QCD matrix elements with a PS algorithm to produce differential cross-section predictions that are finite for all $p_T^Z$. The Alpgen [42] and Sherpa [43] event generators implement tree-level matrix elements for the generation of multiple hard partons in association with the weak boson. They are matched to parton showers either by a PS algorithm using re-weighting procedures [44, 45] or through a veto [42], in order to avoid the double counting of QCD emissions in the matrix element and the parton shower.

3. The ATLAS detector

The ATLAS detector [46] is a multi-purpose particle physics detector operating at one of the beam interaction points of the LHC. It covers nearly the entire solid angle around the collision region and consists of an inner tracking detector (inner detector or ID) surrounded by a thin superconducting solenoid providing a 2 T axial magnetic field, electromagnetic and hadronic calorimeters, and a muon spectrometer (MS).

Measurements in the ID are performed with silicon pixel and microstrip detectors covering $|\eta| < 2.5$. A strawtube tracking detector follows radially and covers the range $|\eta| < 2.0$. The lead/liquid-argon electromagnetic calorimeter is divided into barrel ($|\eta| < 1.5$) and endcap ($1.4 < |\eta| < 3.2$) sections. The hadronic calorimeter is based on steel/scintillating tiles in the central region ($|\eta| < 1.7$), and is extended to $|\eta| = 4.9$ by endcap and forward calorimeters which use liquid argon. The MS comprises separate trigger and high-precision tracking chambers to measure the deflection of muons in a magnetic field generated by three large superconducting toroids arranged with an eightfold azimuthal coil symmetry around the calorimeters. The high-precision chambers cover a range of $|\eta| < 2.7$. The muon trigger system covers the range $|\eta| < 2.4$ with resistive plate chambers in the barrel, and thin gap chambers in the endcap regions.

4. Event simulation

MC simulations are used to calculate efficiencies and acceptances for the $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$ signal processes and to unfold the measured $\phi^*_\eta$ spectrum for detector effects and
for different levels of QED FSR. The POWHEG MC generator is used with CT10 [47] parton distribution functions (PDFs) to generate both the $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow e^+e^-$ and $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ signal events. It is interfaced to PYTHIA 6.4 with the AUET2B-CTEQ6L1 tune [48] to simulate the parton shower and the underlying event. Generated events are re-weighted as a function of $p_T^e$ to the predictions from RESBos, which describes the $p_T^e$ spectrum more accurately [15]. Simulated events are also used to estimate background contributions. The electroweak background processes $W \rightarrow ℓν$ and $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$ are generated using PYTHIA 6.4. The production of $t\bar{t}$ events is modelled using MC@NLO and diboson processes are simulated using HERWIG. The event generators are interfaced to PHOTOS [49] to simulate QED FSR for all of the simulated samples, except SHERPA which is interfaced to an implementation of the YFS algorithm [50, 51].

Multiple interactions per bunch crossing (pile-up) are accounted for by overlaying simulated minimum bias events. To match the observed instantaneous luminosity profile, the simulated events are re-weighted to yield the same distribution of the number of interactions per bunch crossing as measured in the data. The response of the ATLAS detector to the generated particles is modelled using GEANT4 [52], and the fully simulated events [53] are passed through the same reconstruction chain as the data. Simulated event samples are corrected for differences with respect to the data in the trigger efficiencies, lepton reconstruction and identification efficiencies as well as in energy (momentum) scale and resolution. The efficiencies are determined by using a tag-and-probe method similar to the one described in Section 4.3 of Ref. [54] based on reconstructed $Z$ and $W$ events, while the energy resolution and scale corrections are obtained from a fit to the observed $Z$ boson line shape.

5. Event reconstruction, selection and background estimation

Events recorded during periods with stable beam conditions and passing detector and data-quality requirements are selected. At least one primary vertex reconstructed from at least three tracks is required in each event.

Events in the electron channel are selected online by requiring a single electron candidate with a threshold in transverse momentum $p_T$ that was increased during the data-taking from 20 GeV to 22 GeV in response to increased LHC luminosity. Electrons are reconstructed from a cluster of cells with significant energy deposits in the electromagnetic calorimeter matched to an inner detector track. Electron reconstruction uses track refitting with a Gaussian-sum filter to be less sensitive to bremsstrahlung losses and improve the estimates of the electron track parameters [55, 56]. The typical angular resolutions in the electron direction measurements are 0.6 mrad for $φ$ and 0.0012 for $η$. The highest and second highest $p_T^e$ electrons are required to have a transverse momentum $p_T^e > 25$ GeV and $p_T^e > 20$ GeV, respectively. The electron pseudorapidity must satisfy $|η^e| < 2.4$ with the calorimeter barrel/endcap transition region $1.37 < |η^e| < 1.52$ excluded. Electrons are required to pass “medium” identification criteria based on shower shape and track-quality variables, as described in Refs. [57, 58]. The criteria are re-optimised for both higher pile-up conditions and higher instantaneous luminosity in 2011.

Events in the muon channel are selected online by a trigger requiring a single muon candidate with $p_T^μ > 18$ GeV. Muons are identified as tracks reconstructed in the muon spectrometer matched to tracks reconstructed in the inner detector and are required to have $p_T^μ > 20$ GeV and $|η^μ| < 2.4$. Only isolated muons are selected by requiring the scalar sum of the $p_T$ of the tracks within a cone $ΔR = 0.2$ around the muon to be less than 10% of the muon $p_T$. Muons are required to have a longitudinal impact parameter with respect to the primary vertex less than 10 mm to reduce contributions from cosmic-ray muons and in-time pile-up. In addition, the transverse impact parameter of the track with respect to the primary vertex divided by its uncertainty must be smaller than ten to reduce non-prompt muon backgrounds. The typical angular resolutions in the muon direction measurements are 0.4 mrad for $φ$ and 0.001 for $η$. $Z/γ^* \rightarrow ℓ^+ℓ^-$ events are selected by requiring two oppositely charged same-flavour leptons with an invariant mass $66$ GeV $< m_{ℓℓ} < 116$ GeV. After these selection requirements $1.22 \cdot 10^6$ dielectron and $1.69 \cdot 10^6$ dimuon candidate events are found in data.

Background contributions from $Z/γ^* \rightarrow τ^+τ^-$, $W \rightarrow ℓν$, $t\bar{t}$ and diboson production are estimated using MC simulations. The cross sections are normalised to next-to-next-to-leading-order (NNLO) predictions for $Z/γ^*$ and $W$ production using FEWZ, NLL-NLO predictions for $t\bar{t}$ production [54] and NLO predictions for diboson production [59]. For both the $e^+e^-$ and $μ^+μ^-$ channels, the main background at high $φ_η^*$ values arises from $t\bar{t}$ and diboson production.

At low $φ_η^*$ values the background is dominated by multi-jet production, where a jet is falsely identified as a primary $e$ or $μ$. In this case the background is determined by data-driven methods. A data event sample dominated by jets faking electrons or muons in the final state is employed to determine the shape of the multi-jet background. For the $e^+e^-$ channel, the multi-jet sample is obtained from electrons failing the medium identification criteria. In order to assess systematic uncertainties in the shape of the multi-jet background, an alternative multi-jet control sample was also selected using non-isolated electrons. For the $μ^+μ^-$ channel, the multi-jet sample is extracted by inverting the isolation requirement on muons. The uncertainty in its shape was studied by comparing same-sign and opposite-sign dimuon events. The normalisation of this multi-jet background template is determined by adjusting the sum of it and other background and signal MC predictions to data as a function of the invariant mass.
spectrum of the dilepton pair. An extended dilepton mass range, 50 GeV $< m_{\ell\ell} < 150$ GeV (200 GeV for electrons), was employed to better constrain the off-resonance region and improve the accuracy of the multi-jet background normalisation.

The total fraction of background events is (0.61 ± 0.31)% in the $e^+e^-$ channel and (0.56 ± 0.28)% in the $\mu^+\mu^-$ channel. The multi-jet background represents $\sim$ 50% of the total background in both channels and dominates at low $\phi_0^*$ values. An irreducible background may also arise from the production of a lepton pair via photon-photon interactions, $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$. This contribution was evaluated at leading order using FEWZ 3.1 [24, 60] and the MRST2004qed [61] PDF, currently the only available PDF set containing a description of the QED part of the proton. According to the LO cross section calculated in the fiducial lepton acceptance, the fraction of photon-induced events is expected to be below 0.1%, with an uncertainty of 50%. This contribution is six times lower than the sum of other background contributions and is therefore neglected.

6. Cross-section measurement and systematic uncertainties

The differential cross section is evaluated in bins of $\phi_0^*$, or of ($\phi_0^*$, $y_Z$), from the number of observed data events in each bin after subtraction of the estimated number of background events.

A bin-by-bin correction is used to correct the observed data for detector acceptances and inefficiencies, as well as for QED FSR. The correction factors are determined using signal MC events. For the chosen bin widths the purity, defined as the fraction of simulated events reconstructed as signal MC events. For the chosen bin widths the purity, defined as the fraction of simulated events reconstructed as signal MC events, is always more than 83% and reaches 98% in the highest $\phi_0^*$ bins. In each bin, the data are normalised to the cross section integrated over the fiducial acceptance region.

An analysis of systematic uncertainties was performed, in which the sensitivity of the measurements to variations in the efficiencies and energy scales of the detector components and to the details of the correction procedure is tested. The systematic uncertainties in the measured cross section are determined by repeating the analysis after applying appropriate variations for each source of systematic
uncertainty to the simulated samples. The systematic uncertainties which are correlated between $\phi_\eta$ bins are listed below.

- Uncertainties in the estimation of the number of background events from multi-jet, $W \to \ell\nu$ and $Z/\gamma^* \to \tau^+\tau^-$ decays, $t\bar{t}$ and diboson processes yield values of up to 0.3% in the $e^+e^-$ and $\mu^+\mu^-$ channels, when propagated to the normalised differential cross section.

- Possible mis-modelling of the angular resolution of tracking detectors leads to uncertainties of up to 0.3% (0.2%) on the normalised differential cross section in the $e^+e^-$ ($\mu^+\mu^-$) channel.

- The dependence of the bin-by-bin correction factors on the shape of the assumed $\phi_\eta$ distribution was tested by re-weighting simulated events to the measured $\phi_\eta$ cross section. An iterative Bayesian unfolding technique [62] was employed as an alternative approach to assess systematic uncertainties. The uncertainty in the correction procedure is found to be smaller than 0.1% in both channels and for the full $\phi_\eta$ range.

- As the definition of the $\phi_\eta$ variable is based on the lepton angles, the normalised differential cross section depends only weakly on uncertainties in the lepton energy/momentum scale and resolution. When propagated to the normalised differential cross section, these uncertainties amount to less than 0.1% and 0.03% in the $e^+e^-$ and $\mu^+\mu^-$ channels, respectively.

- Uncertainties arising from the mis-modelling of lepton identification efficiencies and trigger efficiencies in the simulation amount respectively to 0.05% (0.03%) and 0.04% (0.02%) in the $e^+e^-$ ($\mu^+\mu^-$) channel.

- Pile-up has only a weak influence on this measurement and results in an uncertainty of at most 0.05% on the normalised differential cross section.

A second class of systematic uncertainties, listed below, are considered uncorrelated across $\phi_\eta$ bins.

- Uncertainties on the bin-by-bin correction factors arising from the MC sample statistics are 0.2% (0.13%) at low $\phi_\eta$ in the $e^+e^-$ ($\mu^+\mu^-$) channel, increasing to 0.9% (0.6%) in the highest $\phi_\eta$ bins.

- Possible local biases in angular measurements ($\phi$, $\eta$) by tracking detectors yield an estimated constant uncertainty of 0.1% on the normalised differential cross section. The local effect of these biases allows bin-to-bin correlations to be neglected. The impact of this assumption on the combination of electron and muon channel results is small.

- A conservative systematic uncertainty of 0.3% due to $\phi_\eta$-dependent modelling of QED FSR is assigned by comparing predictions from PHOTOS [49] and from the SHERPA implementation of the YFS algorithm [50, 51]. This comparison provides the size of the uncertainty but however does not allow the shape of the $\phi_\eta$ dependence to be estimated. This uncertainty was therefore treated as uncorrelated across $\phi_\eta$ bins. The uncertainty is assumed to hold for cross sections at Born, dressed and bare levels and for both electron and muon channel measurements. It therefore does not affect the combination of them.

The total systematic uncertainty on each data point is formed by adding the individual contributions in quadrature.

![Figure 1: The measured normalised differential cross section $1/\sigma_{\text{fid}}\cdot d\sigma/d\phi_\eta$ as a function of $\phi_\eta$ for $Z/\gamma^* \to e^+e^-$ (closed dots) and $Z/\gamma^* \to \mu^+\mu^-$ (open dots) channels. The measurements are compared to ResBos predictions represented by a line. The ratio of measured cross sections to ResBos predictions is presented in the bottom panel. The measurements are displaced horizontally for better visibility. The inner and outer error bars on the data points represent the statistical and total uncertainties, respectively. The uncertainty due to QED FSR is included in the total uncertainties.](image)

7. Results and discussion

The normalised differential cross sections measured for $Z/\gamma^* \to e^+e^-$ and $Z/\gamma^* \to \mu^+\mu^-$ production in the fiducial acceptance are presented in Table 1. The measurements are reported with respect to the Born, dressed and
bare reference points at particle level regarding QED FSR.
The QED FSR corrections for the three levels are calculated using 
PHOTOS. The measured cross sections defined 
at the $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow e^+e^-$ Born level are shown in Fig. 1 for the $e^+e^-$ and $\mu^+\mu^-$ channels and are compared to predictions from 
ResBos.

The normalised differential cross sections measured in 
the fiducial acceptance for the two channels are combined 
using a $\chi^2$ minimisation method which takes into account 
the point-to-point correlated and uncorrelated systematic uncertainties [63–65] and correlations between electron 
and muon channels. The procedure allows a model independent check of the electron and muon data consistency 
and leads to a significant reduction of the correlated un-
certainties.

Table 2: The combined normalised differential cross section $1/\sigma^{fid} \cdot 
\frac{d\sigma}{d\phi^*_\eta}$ in bins of $\phi^*_\eta$ at Born level. The statistical ($\delta_{stat})$ and total 
systematic ($\delta_{sys})$ uncertainties are given in percent. The normalised 
differential cross section extrapolated to the full lepton acceptance 
$1/\sigma^{ext} \cdot \frac{d\sigma}{d\phi^*_\eta}$ is obtained at Born level by multiplication with the 
inverse acceptance correction factor $A^{-1}_{fid}$. The uncertainty $\delta(A^{-1}_{fid})$ 
on this acceptance correction factor is also given in percent. The 
overall point-to-point uncorrelated additional uncertainty in QED 
FSR of 0.3% is not included.

<table>
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<th>$\phi^*_\eta$</th>
<th>$1/\sigma^{ fid} \cdot \frac{d\sigma}{d\phi^*_\eta}$</th>
<th>$\delta_{stat} %$</th>
<th>$\delta_{sys} %$</th>
<th>$A^{-1}_{fid}$</th>
<th>$\delta(A^{-1}_{fid}) %$</th>
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<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.165–0.189</td>
<td>1.355</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>2.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.189–0.219</td>
<td>1.084</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>2.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.219–0.258</td>
<td>0.824</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>2.9</td>
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<td>0.258–0.312</td>
<td>0.595</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td>2.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.312–0.391</td>
<td>0.396</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>3.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.391–0.524</td>
<td>0.282</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>3.5</td>
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<td>0.524–0.695</td>
<td>0.169</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>4.4</td>
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<td>0.178</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<td>0.292</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0.29</td>
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<td>0.81</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>0.98</td>
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<td>7.13</td>
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<td>10.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.947–2.522</td>
<td>3.54</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>0.49</td>
<td>1.11</td>
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<td>2.522–3.277</td>
<td>1.77</td>
<td>1.61</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>1.19</td>
<td>16.2</td>
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The uncertainties due to the unfolding procedure, the 
pile-up, and QED FSR are considered to be completely 
 correlated between the $e^+e^-$ and $\mu^+\mu^-$ channels. The 
minimisation yields a total $\chi^2$ per degree of freedom 
($n_{ dof})$ of $\chi^2/n_{ dof} = 33.2/34$, indicating a good consistency 
between the electron and muon data. Measured values 
of the combined normalised differential cross section 
$1/\sigma^{ fid} \cdot \frac{d\sigma}{d\phi^*_\eta}$ within the fiducial lepton acceptance 
are presented in Table 2. At lower $\phi^*_\eta$ values statistical 
and systematic uncertainties are of the same order, whilst 
for large $\phi^*_\eta$ values statistical uncertainties are dominating.

The acceptance correction factors $A_{fid}$ needed to extrapolate 
the measurement to the full lepton acceptance are 
determined using the POWHEG simulation with the CT10 PDF set and reweighted as a function of $p_T^\ell$ to ResBos predictions. The uncertainty in $A_{fid}$ is estimated from the 
 extreme differences among predictions obtained with ResBos, Mc@nlo, Sherpa, AlpGen, Herwig and Powheg 
interfaced to PYTHIA8. Uncertainties in $A_{fid}$ resulting from 
PDF uncertainties are below 1%.

![Figure 2: The ratio of the combined normalised differential cross section $1/\sigma^{ fid} \cdot \frac{d\sigma}{d\phi^*_\eta}$ to ResBos predictions as a function of $\phi^*_\eta$. The inner and outer error bars on the data points represent the statistical and total uncertainties, respectively. The uncertainty due to QED FSR is included in the total uncertainties. The measurements are also compared to predictions, which are represented by a dashed line, from Ref. [22] and from Fwz in the top and bottom panels, respectively. Uncertainties associated with these two calculations are represented by shaded bands. The prediction from Fwz is only presented for $\phi^*_\eta > 0.1$.](image-url)
The ratio of the combined normalised differential cross section to the ResBos prediction is shown as a function of $\phi_\eta^*$ in Fig. 2. The measurement is also compared to a QCD calculation by A. Banfi et al., [22] and to another obtained with Fewz 2.1. The ratios of these two calculations to ResBos predictions are also shown in Fig. 2. The CTEQ6m PDF set is used in the calculations in Ref. [22]. The theoretical uncertainties on this evaluation are calculated by varying the resummation, renormalisation and factorisation scales $\mu_R$, $\mu_F$ and $\mu_F$ between $m_Z/2$ and $2m_Z$, with the constraints $0.5 \leq \mu_i/\mu_j \leq 2$, where $i, j \in \{F, Q, R\}$, and $\mu_F/\mu_Q \geq 1$. Uncertainties coming from the PDFs are also considered [22]. For Fewz, the CT10 PDF set is used. Uncertainties are evaluated by varying $\mu_R$ and $\mu_F$ by factors of two around the nominal scale $m_Z$ with the constraint $0.5 \leq \mu_i/\mu_j \leq 2$, by varying $\alpha_S$ within a range corresponding to 90% confidence-level (CL) limits [67], and by using the PDF error eigenvector sets.

The difference between the ResBos prediction and data is $\sim 2\%$ for $\phi_\eta^* \leq 0.1$, increasing to 5% for higher $\phi_\eta^*$ values. This difference is smaller than the uncertainty in ResBos predictions due to the propagation of PDF eigenvector sets, which amounts to 4% for $\phi_\eta^* \leq 0.1$ and 6% above. The description of data provided by calculations from A. Banfi et al. [22] is less good than ResBos but observed differences remain within the theoretical uncertainties of the calculation. The prediction obtained with Fewz undershoots the data by $\sim 10\%$, as already observed for the $p_T^Z$ spectrum in Ref. [15]. At low $\phi_\eta^*$ values, corresponding mainly to low $p_T^Z$, fixed-order perturbative QCD calculations are not expected to give an adequate description of the cross section. The prediction from Fewz is therefore only presented for $\phi_\eta^* > 0.1$. It is normalised using the total cross section predicted by Fewz, which accurately describes experimental measurements [58].

The cross section is also measured double differentially in bins of $\phi_\eta^*$ for three independent bins of $|y_Z|$ for both the $e^+e^-$ and $\mu^+\mu^-$ channels. The double differential cross-section measurements in the two channels are combined using the same $\chi^2$ minimisation procedure as used for the single differential cross section. The minimisation yields a total $\chi^2/ndof = 118/102$. Measured values of the combined normalised differential cross section $1/\sigma^{fid} \cdot d\sigma^{fid}/d\phi_\eta^*$ within the fiducial lepton acceptance in all $\phi_\eta^*$ and $|y_Z|$ bins are presented in Table 3.

The ratio of the combined normalised differential cross
Figure 3: The ratio of the combined normalised differential cross section $1/\sigma_{\text{fid}} \cdot d\sigma_{\text{fid}}/d\phi_{\eta}^*$ to the ResBos predictions as a function of $\phi_{\eta}^*$ in three ranges of $|y_Z|$. The inner and outer error bars on the data points represent the statistical and total uncertainties, respectively. The uncertainty due to QED FSR is included in the total uncertainties. The measurements are also compared to predictions from different MC event generators.

section to the ResBos prediction is shown as a function of $\phi_{\eta}^*$ for the three $|y_Z|$ ranges in Fig. 3. The measurement is also compared to predictions obtained using different MC event generators. The PDF set CT10 is employed in all calculations, except for Alpgen where the CTEQ6L1 PDF set is used. The parton-shower parameters of each MC generator are set to their default values, except for Pythia6 where a specific ATLAS re-tuning was used [48]. The generators Alpgen, interfaced to Herwig, and Sherpa provide a good description of the spectrum for $\phi_{\eta}^* > 0.1$. In particular, Sherpa describes the data better than ResBos over all $|y_Z|$ bins for $\phi_{\eta}^* > 0.1$. However, for $\phi_{\eta}^* < 0.1$ the deviations of Sherpa and Alpgen from the data are $\approx 5\%$, somewhat larger than those of ResBos. The Powheg generator interfaced to Pythia8 is also able to describe the data to within 5% over the whole $\phi_{\eta}^*$ range.

The effect of changing the PS tunings and algorithms interfaced to Powheg was investigated by using Pythia6 and Herwig interfaced to the same Powheg NLO calculation. These two variations give a worse description of data than Pythia8, and deviations from data of $\approx 10\%$ are observed. The MC@NLO generator interfaced to Herwig does not properly describe the data for $\phi_{\eta}^* > 0.1$, and deviations from data of the order of 4–7% are observed for $\phi_{\eta}^* < 0.1$ depending on the $|y_Z|$ bin. The level of agreement between MC generators and data is very similar for comparisons at the dressed level.

8. Conclusion

A measurement of the $\phi_{\eta}^*$ distribution of $Z/\gamma^*$ boson candidates in $\sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV} pp$ collisions at the LHC is presented. The data were collected with the ATLAS detector and correspond to an integrated luminosity of 4.6 fb$^{-1}$. Normalised differential cross sections as a function of $\phi_{\eta}^*$ have been measured in bins of the $Z$ boson rapidity $y_Z$ up to $\phi_{\eta}^* \sim 3$ for electron and muon pairs with an invariant mass $66 \text{ GeV} < m_{\ell\ell} < 116 \text{ GeV}$. The high number of $Z/\gamma^*$ boson candidates recorded permits the use of finer bins as compared to a similar study performed at the Tevatron. The typical uncertainty achieved by the combination of electron and muon data integrated over the whole $Z$ rapidity range is below $0.5\%$ for $\phi_{\eta}^* < 0.5$ increasing to $0.8\%$
at larger $\phi^*_\eta$ values.

The cross-section measurements have been compared to resummed QCD predictions combined with fixed-order perturbative QCD calculations. Calculations using ResBos provide the best descriptions of the data. However, they are unable to reproduce the detailed shape of the measured cross section to better than 4%.

The cross-section measurements have also been compared to predictions from different Monte Carlo generators interfaced to a parton shower algorithm. The best descriptions of the measured $\phi^*_\eta$ spectrum are provided by Sherpa and Powheg+Pythia8 Monte Carlo event generators. For $\phi^*_\eta$ values above 0.1, predictions from Sherpa are able to reproduce the data to within $\sim 2\%$. The low $\phi^*_\eta$ part of the spectrum is, however, described less accurately than by ResBos. Double differential measurements as a function of $\phi^*_\eta$ and $q^*_Z$ provide valuable information for the tuning of MC generators. None of the tested predictions is able to reproduce the detailed shape of the measured cross section within the experimental precision reached, which is typically lower by one order of magnitude than present theoretical uncertainties.

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References


China
34 Laboratoire de Physique Corpusculaire, Clermont Université and Université Blaise Pascal and CNRS/IN2P3, Clermont-Ferrand, France
35 Nevis Laboratory, Columbia University, Irvington NY, United States of America
36 Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen, Kobenhavn, Denmark
37 (a) INFN Gruppo Collegato di Cosenza; (b) Dipartimento di Fisica, Università della Calabria, Arcavata di Rende, Italy
38 AGH University of Science and Technology, Faculty of Physics and Applied Computer Science, Krakow, Poland
39 The Henryk Niewodnizanski Institute of Nuclear Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Krakow, Poland
40 Physics Department, Southern Methodist University, Dallas TX, United States of America
41 Physics Department, University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson TX, United States of America
42 DESY, Hamburg and Zeuthen, Germany
43 Institut für Experimentelle Physik IV, Technische Universität Dortmund, Dortmund, Germany
44 Institut für Kern- und Teilchenphysik, Technical University Dresden, Dresden, Germany
45 Department of Physics, Duke University, Durham NC, United States of America
46 SUPA - School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
47 INFN Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Frascati, Italy
48 Fakultät für Mathematik und Physik, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Freiburg, Germany
49 Section de Physique, Université de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland
50 (a) INFN Sezione di Genova; (b) Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Genova, Genova, Italy
51 (a) E. Andronikashvili Institute of Physics, Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi; (b) High Energy Physics Institute, Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia
52 (a) II Physikalisches Institut, Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen, Giessen, Germany
53 SUPA - School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom
54 (a) II Physikalisches Institut, Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen, Germany
55 Laboratoire de Physique Subatomique et de Cosmologie, Université Joseph Fourier and CNRS/IN2P3 and Institut National Polytechnique de Grenoble, Grenoble, France
56 Department of Physics, Hampton University, Hampton VA, United States of America
57 Laboratory for Particle Physics and Cosmology, Harvard University, Cambridge MA, United States of America
58 (a) Kirchhoff-Institut für Physik, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg; (b) Physikalisches Institut, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg; (c) ZITI Institut für technische Informatik, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Mannheim, Germany
59 Department of Applied Information Science, Hiroshima Institute of Technology, Hiroshima, Japan
60 Department of Physics, Indiana University, Bloomington IN, United States of America
61 Institut für Astro- und Teilchenphysik, Leopold-Franzens-Universität, Innsbruck, Austria
62 University of Iowa, Iowa City IA, United States of America
63 Department of Physics and Astronomy, Iowa State University, Ames IA, United States of America
64 Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, JINR Dubna, Dubna, Russia
65 KEK, High Energy Accelerator Research Organization, Tsukuba, Japan
66 Graduate School of Science, Kobe University, Kobe, Japan
67 Faculty of Science, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan
68 Kyoto University of Education, Kyoto, Japan
69 Department of Physics, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan
70 Instituto de Física La Plata, Universidad Nacional de La Plata and CONICET, La Plata, Argentina
71 Physics Department, Lancaster University, Lancaster, United Kingdom
72 (a) INFN Sezione di Lecce; (b) Dipartimento di Matematica e Fisica, Università del Salento, Lecce, Italy
73 Oliver Lodge Laboratory, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom
74 Department of Physics, Jožef Stefan Institute and University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia
75 School of Physics and Astronomy, Queen Mary University of London, London, United Kingdom
76 Department of Physics, Royal Holloway University of London, Surrey, United Kingdom
77 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University College London, London, United Kingdom
78 Laboratoire de Physique Nucléaire et de Hautes Énergies, UPMC and Université Paris-Diderot and CNRS/IN2P3, Paris, France
79 Fysiska institutionen, Lunds universitet, Lund, Sweden
80 Departamento de Física Teórica C-15, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain
81 Institut für Physik, Universität Mainz, Mainz, Germany
82 School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom

19
Department of Physics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA, United States of America
Department of Physics, McGill University, Montreal QC, Canada
School of Physics, University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Department of Physics, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI, United States of America
Department of Physics and Astronomy, Michigan State University, East Lansing MI, United States of America
INFN Sezione di Milano; Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Milano, Milano, Italy
B.I. Stepanov Institute of Physics, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Minsk, Republic of Belarus
National Scientific and Educational Centre for Particle and High Energy Physics, Minsk, Republic of Belarus
Department of Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge MA, United States of America
Group of Particle Physics, University of Montreal, Montreal QC, Canada
P.N. Lebedev Institute of Physics, Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia
Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics (ITEP), Moscow, Russia
Moscow Engineering and Physics Institute (MEPhI), Moscow, Russia
D.V. Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics, M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia
Fakultät für Physik, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, München, Germany
Max-Planck-Institut für Physik (Werner-Heisenberg-Institut), München, Germany
Nagasaki Institute of Applied Science, Nagasaki, Japan
Graduate School of Science and Kobayashi-Maskawa Institute, Nagoya University, Nagoya, Japan
INFN Sezione di Napoli; Dipartimento di Scienze Fisiche, Università di Napoli, Napoli, Italy
Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque NM, United States of America
Institute for Mathematics, Astrophysics and Particle Physics, Radboud University Nijmegen/Nikhef, Nijmegen, Netherlands
Nikhef National Institute for Subatomic Physics and University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Department of Physics, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb IL, United States of America
Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics, SB RAS, Novosibirsk, Russia
Department of Physics, New York University, New York NY, United States of America
Ohio State University, Columbus OH, United States of America
Faculty of Science, Okayama University, Okayama, Japan
Homer L. Dodge Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Oklahoma, Norman OK, United States of America
Department of Physics, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater OK, United States of America
Palacký University, RCPTM, Olomouc, Czech Republic
Center for High Energy Physics, University of Oregon, Eugene OR, United States of America
LAL, Université Paris-Sud and CNRS/IN2P3, Orsay, France
Graduate School of Science, Osaka University, Osaka, Japan
Department of Physics, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway
Department of Physics, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom
INFN Sezione di Pavia; Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Pavia, Pavia, Italy
Department of Physics, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA, United States of America
Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute, Gatchina, Russia
INFN Sezione di Pisa; Dipartimento di Fisica E. Fermi, Università di Pisa, Pisa, Italy
Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh PA, United States of America
Laboratorio de Instrumentacao e Fisica Experimental de Particulas - LIP, Lisboa; Departamento de Fisica Teorica y del Cosmos and CAFPE, Universidad de Granada, Granada, Portugal
Institute of Cosmics and CAFPE, University of Paris-Sud and CNRS/IN2P3, Orsay, France
Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Napoli, Napoli, Italy
Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Milano, Milano, Italy
Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Roma Tor Vergata, Roma, Italy
INFN Sezione di Roma Tre; Dipartimento di Fisica, Università Roma Tre, Roma, Italy
Faculté des Sciences Ain Chock, Réseau Universitaire de Physique des Hautes Energies - Université Hassan II, Casablanca; Centre National de l’Energie des Sciences Techniques Nucléaires, Rabat; Faculté des Sciences
Semlalia, Université Cadi Ayyad, LPHEA-Marrakech; (d) Faculté des Sciences, Université Mohamed Premier and LPTPM, Oujda; (c) Faculté des sciences, Université Mohammed V-Agdal, Rabat, Morocco
136 DSM/IRFU (Institut de Recherches sur les Lois Fondamentales de l'Univers), CEA Saclay (Commissariat à l’Energie Atomique et aux Energies Alternatives), Gif-sur-Yvette, France
137 Santa Cruz Institute for Particle Physics, University of California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz CA, United States of America
138 Department of Physics, University of Washington, Seattle WA, United States of America
139 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom
140 Department of Physics, Shinshu University, Nagano, Japan
141 Fachbereich Physik, Universität Siegen, Siegen, Germany
142 Department of Physics, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby BC, Canada
143 SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, Stanford CA, United States of America
144 (a) Faculty of Mathematics, Physics & Informatics, Comenius University, Bratislava; (b) Department of Subnuclear Physics, Institute of Experimental Physics of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Kosice, Slovak Republic
145 (a) Department of Physics, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg; (b) School of Physics, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
146 (a) Department of Physics, Stockholm University; (b) The Oskar Klein Centre, Stockholm, Sweden
147 Physics Department, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden
148 Departments of Physics & Astronomy and Chemistry, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook NY, United States of America
149 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom
150 School of Physics, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
151 Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan
152 Department of Physics, Technion: Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel
153 Raymond and Beverly Sackler School of Physics and Astronomy, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel
154 Department of Physics, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece
155 International Center for Elementary Particle Physics and Department of Physics, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
156 Graduate School of Science and Technology, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Tokyo, Japan
157 Department of Physics, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo, Japan
158 Department of Physics, University of Toronto, Toronto ON, Canada
159 (a) TRIUMF, Vancouver BC; (b) Department of Physics and Astronomy, York University, Toronto ON, Canada
160 Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba, Japan
161 Department of Physics and Astronomy, Tufts University, Medford MA, United States of America
162 Centro de Investigaciones, Universidad Antonio Narino, Bogota, Colombia
163 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of California Irvine, Irvine CA, United States of America
164 (a) INFN Gruppo Collegato di Udine; (b) ICTP, Trieste; (c) Dipartimento di Chimica, Fisica e Ambiente, Università di Udine, Udine, Italy
165 Department of Physics, University of Illinois, Urbana IL, United States of America
166 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Uppsala, Uppsala, Sweden
167 Instituto de Física Corpuscular (IFIC) and Departamento de Física Atómica, Molecular y Nuclear and Departamento de Ingeniería Electrónica and Instituto de Microelectrónica de Barcelona (IMB-CNMTI), University of Valencia and CSIC, Valencia, Spain
168 Department of Physics, University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC, Canada
169 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Victoria, Victoria BC, Canada
170 Department of Physics, University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom
171 Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan
172 Department of Particle Physics, The Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel
173 Department of Physics, University of Wisconsin, Madison WI, United States of America
174 Fakultät für Physik und Astronomie, Julius-Maximilians-Universität, Würzburg, Germany
175 Fachbereich C Physik, Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Wuppertal, Germany
176 Department of Physics, Yale University, New Haven CT, United States of America
177 Yerevan Physics Institute, Yerevan, Armenia
178 Centre de Calcul de l'Institut National de Physique Nucléaire et de Physique des Particules (IN2P3), Villeurbanne, France
a Also at Department of Physics, King’s College London, London, United Kingdom
b Also at Laboratorio de Instrumentación e Física Experimental de Partículas - LIP, Lisboa, Portugal
Also at Faculdade de Ciencias and CFNUL, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal
Also at Particle Physics Department, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom
Also at Department of Physics, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg, South Africa
Also at TRIUMF, Vancouver BC, Canada
Also at Department of Physics, California State University, Fresno CA, United States of America
Also at Novosibirsk State University, Novosibirsk, Russia
Also at Department of Physics, University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal
Also at Department of Physics, UASLP, San Luis Potosi, Mexico
Also at Università di Napoli Parthenope, Napoli, Italy
Also at Institute of Particle Physics (IPP), Canada
Also at Department of Physics, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey
Also at Louisiana Tech University, Ruston LA, United States of America
Also at Dep Fisica and CEFITEC of Faculdade de Ciencias e Tecnologia, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Caparica, Portugal
Also at Department of Physics and Astronomy, University College London, London, United Kingdom
Also at Department of Physics, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa
Also at Institute of Physics, Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, Baku, Azerbaijan
Also at Institut für Experimentalphysik, Universität Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany
Also at Manhattan College, New York NY, United States of America
Also at CPPM, Aix-Marseille Université and CNRS/IN2P3, Marseille, France
Also at School of Physics and Engineering, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China
Also at Academia Sinica Grid Computing, Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan
Also at School of Physics, Shandong University, Shandong, China
Also at Dipartimento di Fisica, Università La Sapienza, Roma, Italy
Also at DSM/IRFU (Institut de Recherches sur les Lois Fondamentales de l’Univers), CEA Saclay (Commissariat à l’Énergie Atomique et aux Énergies Alternatives), Gif-sur-Yvette, France
Also at Section de Physique, Université de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland
Also at Departamento de Física, Universidade de Minho, Braga, Portugal
Also at Department of Physics, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin TX, United States of America
Also at Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of South Carolina, Columbia SC, United States of America
Also at Institute for Particle and Nuclear Physics, Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Budapest, Hungary
Also at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena CA, United States of America
Also at Institute of Physics, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland
Also at LAL, Université Paris-Sud and CNRS/IN2P3, Orsay, France
Also at Faculty of Physics, M.V.Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia
Also at Nevis Laboratory, Columbia University, Irvington NY, United States of America
Also at Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom
Also at Department of Physics, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom
Also at Department of Physics, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI, United States of America
Also at Discipline of Physics, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa

* Deceased
Aad, G; Abajyan, T; Abbott, B; Abdallah, J; Khalek, SA; Abdelalim, AA; Abdinov, O; Aben, R; 
Abi, B; Abolins, M; AbouZeid, OS; Abramowicz, H; Abreu, H; Acharya, BS; Adamczyk, L; 
Adams, DL; Addy, TN; Adelman, J; Adomeit, S; Adragna, P; Adye, T; Aebsky, S; Aguilar- 
Saavedra, JA; Agustoni, M; Ahlen, SP; Ahles, F; Ahmad, A; Ahsan, M; Aielli, G; Akesson, 
TPA; Akimoto, G; Akimov, AV; Alam, MA; Albert, J; Albrand, S; Aleksa, M; Aleksandrov, IN; 
Alessandria, F; Alexa, C; Alexander, G; Alexandre, G; Alexopoulos, T; Alhroob, M; Aliev, M; 
Alimonti, G; Alison, J; Allbrooke, BMM; Allison, LJ; Allport, PP; Allwood-Spiers, SE; Almond, 
J; Aloisio, A; Alon, R; Alonso, A; Alonso, R; Altheimer, A; Gonzalez, BA; Alviggi, MG; Amako, 
K; Amelung, C; Ammosov, VV; Amor Dos Santos, SP; Amorim, A; Amoroso, S; Amram, N; 
Anastopoulos, C; Ancu, LS; Andari, N; Andeen, T; Anders, CF; Anders, G; Anderson, KJ; 
Andreazza, A; Andrei, V; Andrieux, M-L; Anduaga, XS; Angelidakis, S; Anger, P; Angerami, 
A; Anghinolfi, F; Anisenkov, A; Anjos, N; Annozi, A; Antonelli, M; Antonov, A; 
Antos, J; Anulli, F; Aoki, M; Aoun, S; Bella, LA; Apollon, R; Apollon, R; Arabidze, G; Aracena, I; Arai, Y; 
Arce, ATH; Arfaoui, S; Arguin, J-F; Argypopulos, S; Aric, E; Aric, M; Armbruster, AJ; Arnaez, 
O; Arnal, V; Artamonov, A; Artoni, G; Arutino, D; Asai, S; Ask, S; Asman, B; Asquith, L; 
Assamagan, K; Astbury, A; Atkinson, M; Aubert, B; Auge, E; Augsten, K; Aurousseau, M; 
Avolio, G; Axen, D; Azuelos, G; Azuma, Y; Baak, MA; Baccaglioni, G; Bacci, C; Bach, AM; 
Bachacou, H; Bachas, K; Backes, M; Backhaus, M; Mayes, TJB; Badescu, E; Bagnaia, P; 
Bai, Y; Bailey, DC; Bain, T; Baines, JT; Baker, OK; Baker, S; Balek, P; Banas, E; Banerjee, 
P; Banerjee, S; Banfi, D; Bangert, A; Bansa, V; Bansil, HS; Barak, L; Baranov, SP; Barber, T; 
Barberio, EL; Barberis, D; Barbero, M; Bardin, DY; Barillari, T; Barisonzi, M; Barklow, T; 
Barlow, N; Barnett, BM; Barnett, RM; Baroncelli, A; Barone, G; Barr, AJ; Barreiro, F; da 
Costa, JBG; Bartoldus, R; Barton, AE; Bartsh, V; Basye, A; Bates, RL; Batkova, L; Batley, 
JR; Battaglia, A; Battistin, M; Bauer, F; Bawa, HS; Beale, S; Beau, T; Beauchemin, PH; 
Beccherle, R; Bechtle, P; Beck, HP; Becker, K; Becker, S; Beckingham, M; Becks, KH; 
Beddall, AJ; Beddall, A; Bedikian, S; Bednyakov, VA; Bee, CP; Beemster, LJ; Begel, M; 
Harpaz, SB; Behera, PK; Beimforde, M; Belanger-Champagne, C; Bell, PJ; Bell, WH; Bella, 
G; Bellagamba, L; Bellomo, M; Belloni, A; Beloborodova, O; Belotskiy, K; Beltramello, O; 
Benary, O; Benchekroun, D; Bendtz, K; Benekos, N; Benhannou, Y; Noccioli, EB; Garcia, 
JAB; Benjamin, DP; Benoit, M; Bansinger, JR; Benslama, K; Bentvelsen, S; Berge, D; 
Kuutmann, EB; Berger, N; Berghaus, F; Berglund, E; Beringer, J; Bernat, P; Bernhard, R;